

MARYLAND AGRI-FACTS



Published Semi-Monthly by the Maryland Agricultural Statistics Service and the Maryland Department of Agriculture

AF-10-03

May 21, 2003

QUARTERLY AG SURVEY

How many acres will be planted to corn? What will spring planting conditions mean for American agriculture? To gather reliable, objective information, the Maryland Agricultural Statistics Service (MASS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture will be surveying farmers and ranchers for the June Agricultural Survey.

There is always speculation about each new crop season and agricultural producers are the main source for the facts. "If we speak up and answer the questions about the 2003 crop season, we can reduce uncertainty in the agriculture marketplace," says Lewis Riley, Secretary of Agriculture.

The Maryland Agricultural Statistics Service will be conducting the survey and a representative will contact local producers between May 29th thru June 11th. This survey is particularly vital because it will provide the first clear indications of the potential production of major commodities in 2003.

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The information gathered is widely used. Producers rely on the data to reach valid production, marketing, and investment decisions. Industry analysts, extension agents, and farm organizations use the information in a variety of ways that benefit farmers.

"We safeguard the confidentiality of all survey responses," Norman Bennett, State Statistician, says. "Information from individual operations is combined with other responses to provide the needed data." MASS works with farmers to provide meaningful, accurate, and objective statistics that help keep U.S. agriculture informed.

For a copy of the finished report or to obtain other agricultural statistics, visit the Maryland Agricultural Statistics Service website at www.usda.gov/nass/md or call 1-800-675-0295.

MD COUNTIES

ALLEGANY

Carolyn Ganoe

ANNE ARUNDEL

Jerry Shaw

BALTIMORE

Grayson Bowers

CARROLL

Grayson Bowers

CECIL

Jacqui England

CAROLINE

Patsy Low

Melaine Morford

CHARLES

Robert Fastnaught

Jerry Shaw

DORCHESTER

Patsy Low

Melaine Morford

FREDERICK

Judy Koliopulos

Debra Spurrier

Mark Spurrier

Carolyn Ganoe

GARRETT

Carolyn Ganoe

HARFORD

Jacqui England

HOWARD

Richard Frounfelter

KENT

P.A. Keating

MONTGOMERY

Richard Frounfelter

QUEEN ANNE'S

P.A. Keating

ST. MARY'S

Robert Fastnaught

TALBOT

Patsy Low

Melaine Morford

WASHINGTON

Judy Koliopulos

WICOMICO

Patsy Low

Melaine Morford

June Brandenburg

WORCESTER

June Brandenburg

DE COUNTIES

KENT

Connie Szeffler

Craig Conner

SUSSEX

Janice Russell

CROP PRODUCTION

This Crop Production Report is the results of the May Agricultural Yield Survey. We wish to thank the producers who help to make this report possible.

Maryland Agricultural Statistics Service

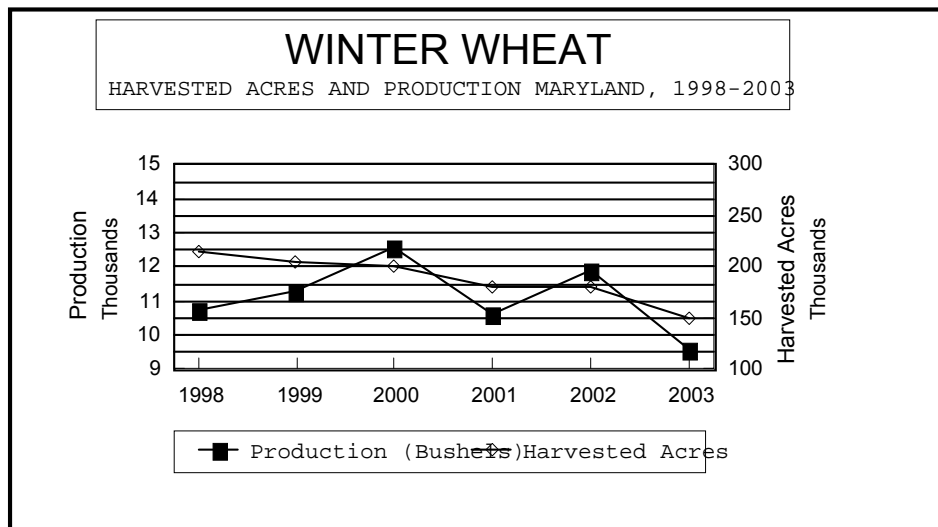


The winter wheat crop in Maryland is expected to yield an average of 64 bushels per acre in 2003, based on May 1 conditions. This average yield, combined with harvested acreage of 150,000 acres, translates to an overall production level of 9,600,000 bushels, 19 percent lower than the harvest in 2002. The average yield is forecast at 2 bushels per acre lower than last year's final average of 66 bushels per acre.

According to the Maryland Crop Progress and Condition Report, the condition of the wheat crop for the week ending May 5th was 7 percent excellent, 48 percent good, 31 percent fair, 9 percent poor, and 5 percent very poor. U.S. winter wheat production is forecast at 1.56 billion bushels, up 37 percent from 2002. Based on May 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 42.9 bushels per acre, 4.4 bushels more than last year.

Winter Wheat Acreage and Production, MD, DE, and U.S., 2002-2003						
State	Harvested Acres		Average Yield		Production	
	2002	2003 ¹	2002	2003 ¹	2002	2003 ¹
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Bushels</i>	<i>Bushels</i>	<i>1,000 Bushels</i>	<i>1,000 Bushels</i>
Delaware	58	47	70.0	65.0	4,060	3,055
Maryland	180	150	66.0	64.0	11,880	9,600
United States	29,651	36,447	38.5	42.9	1,142,802	1,563,314

¹ Forecast



FARM LABOR

There were 938,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of April 6-12, 2003, down 13 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 781,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 157,000 workers. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.16 per hour during the April 2003 reference week, up 33 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.40 per hour, up 34 cents from last April, while livestock workers earned \$8.75 per hour compared with \$8.43 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.49 per hour, was up 34 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 40.1 hours for hired workers during the survey week compared with 40.2 hours a year ago. The largest decreases in number of hired farm workers from a year ago were in California, the Pacific (Oregon and Washington), Southeast (Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina), Northeast II

(Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey and Pennsylvania), Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas), Northern Plains (Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota) and Mountain I (Idaho, Montana and Wyoming) regions. In California, the Pacific, Southeast and Northeast II regions, below normal temperatures and above normal precipitation curtailed field activities, reducing the demand for hired workers. In the Southern Plains region, grazing land was abundantly available in most areas, decreasing the need to move cattle, and lessening the demand for livestock workers. Heavy snow in Nebraska and South Dakota brought fieldwork to a standstill until late in the week, which lessened the need for hired workers in the Northern Plains region. Rains in Idaho delayed planting and field preparation activities, lowering the demand for hired workers in the Mountain I region.

FARM LABOR: EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE RATES, UNITED STATES, APRIL 06-12, 2003, WITH COMPARISON ¹

FARM EMPLOYMENT	APRIL 07-13, 2002	JANUARY 12-18, 2003	APRIL 06-12, 2003
THOUSAND			
Hired Workers	890	* 729	781
Expected to be Employed			
150 Days or More	722	* 614	619
149 Days or Less	168	115	162
Agricultural Services			
Workers Working on Farms	189	160	157
Hired Farm & Service Workers	1,079	* 889	938
HOURS PER WEEK			
Hours Worked Hired	40.2	* 37.7	40.1
DOLLARS PER HOUR			
Wage Rates for			
All Hired Workers ^{2 3}	8.83	* 9.34	9.16
Type of Worker			
Field & Livestock Combined	8.15	8.50	8.49
Field	8.06	*8.30	8.40
Livestock	8.43	*8.90	8.75

* Revised.

¹ Excludes AK.

² Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

³ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

JUNE RELEASE CALENDAR

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
2 Crop Progress	3	4 Broiler Hatchery	5	6 Poultry Slaughter
9 Crop Progress	10	11 Broiler Hatchery Crop Production	12 Turkey Hatchery	13
16 Crop Progress	17 Milk Production	18 Broiler Hatchery	19	20 Livestock Slaughter
23 Crop Progress Chickens & Eggs	24	25 Broiler Hatchery	26	27 Agricultural Prices
30 Crop Progress Acreage Grain Stock				

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT NORMAN BENNETT, STATE STATISTICIAN AT (410) 841- 5740

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Home Page: <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>